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TASK FORCE STUDY

I. Problem.

To report on certain aspects of emergency evacuation and post-evacuation operational planning for Agency overseas operations and make recommendations for Agency action.

II. Discussion.

A. It is acknowledged that the subject of emergency operational planning is outside the province of this Task Force which was established to attack certain covert administrative problems. However, in the course of other Task Force work, questions have been raised which should be made known to the appropriate Agency officials. Two senior intelligence officers recently returned from responsible overseas posts have prepared memoranda on the subject which are attached hereto as Exhibits A. and B.

B. Detailed discussion here would be but repetitions of those memoranda. However, certain generalizations may be pointed up which may not be immediately apparent. With the single exception of Communications there appears to have been little or no Agency direction or coordination of such planning even for the immediate emergency evacuation to say nothing of the equally important post-evacuation reorganization and exploitation of both American and indigenous personnel. Local evacuation plans may well have to be made station by station. However, it would seem imperative that they be coordinated into area plans which would not only require Division action at Headquarters but also close liaison between OSO and OFC opposite numbers. The over-all plans necessarily would in turn have to be in terms of certain Agency assumptions and policies which would provide for alternate action contingent upon the form and direction of the precipitating events.

C. The attached memoranda and this paper do not address themselves to stay-behind operations which are a separate problem and which are individually receiving, no doubt, the proper attention under present procedures. The attached memoranda refer to a discussion of the possible need for regulations covering the problem of evacuation. Further consideration does not indicate that this is a proper matter for regulations as such but rather for the formation of a staff which would have as its sole responsibility the planning, coordination and progressive revision and supervision of a program.

III. Recommendations.

It is recommended that this paper and attached memoranda be referred to the appropriate Agency officials with the suggestion that sufficient staff be furnished to handle this very complex and urgent problem.

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